

ABSTRACT

A method for retrieving data elements from a shared medium by a client computer is provided. The shared medium maintains a main list of data version information associated with each data element, while the client maintains another locally-stored list containing all previously retrieved data elements associated with their respective data version. The client computer checks whether there is a record for a data element in the locally-stored list and if so, sends the data version associated with it to the shared medium. The shared medium compares the data version received with the data version stored in its main list and if the two match, sends a confirmation to the client computer. If the data versions do not match, the shared medium sends a new copy of the data element and a new data version to the originating client computer, such that the client computer updates its locally-stored list.